

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE Sec. 2, P. 6

THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE
28 November 1982

Voice of the people

Sen. Percy's actions on human rights

CHICAGO—Sen. Charles Percy's recent Point of View column in Perspective cites Soviet human rights violations that "cannot and will not be forgotten."

However, Percy's concern for human rights has not been consistent. For instance:

- He supported spending funds to upgrade Honduras' airfields, though this increases the possibility of a U.S.-backed invasion of Nicaragua.

- He voted to end the long-standing ban on covert U.S. activity in Angola. The House wisely retained the ban. It was enacted after \$30 million in CIA expenditures on Angolan operations had raised the possibility of a Viet-

nam-style U.S. involvement in the civil war there.

- He has yet to cosponsor a Senate bill to allow Salvadoran refugees to remain in the U.S. Many deported Salvadorans have been imprisoned or killed upon their return.

Percy is right to criticize Soviet human rights violations. But unless the government in which he has such a strong voice makes a commitment supporting human rights in all countries [particularly those we give financial support to], our appeals to the Soviet Union will ring hollow and unconvincing.

Norman Watkins

Staff member,
Clergy and Laity Concerned